

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Key West Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

July 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

AC/Ops

10 AUG 1988

2.

3.

C/E&PS

4.

DD/FBIS

5.

D/FBIS

6.

7.

PO/RA

8.

SA/CD

9.

C/PERS

10.

C/AS

11.

C/B&F/AS

12.

13.

14.

C/AG

15.

Exec. Reg.

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU**



MAIN P.O. BOX 1056
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33041-1056

NAVAL AIR STATION

STAT

OFFICE: (305) 296-5444

(305) 294-4338

(305) 292-5291

TELEX: 803046

FBIS-4047-88

3 August 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--July 1988

I. GENERAL

The bureau chief met with Embassy officials this month in Santo Domingo to discuss ways to improve radio coverage of the Dominican Republic. Earlier in Key West, we had a chance to brief Paul Taylor, the newly designated ambassador, on some of our ideas.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Cuba's announcement that it had agreed to a plan to end the fighting in Angola and withdraw its troops was our lead item of the month. News of the accord, agreed to in New York at a meeting of Cuban, Angolan, South African, and American representatives, was covered extensively by the Cuban media. Later in the month during a speech at the annual 26 July Moncada Barracks anniversary, Fidel discussed events in Angola but carefully avoided committing himself to an exact timetable for the withdrawal of his "internationalists."

2. Earlier in the month, Havana's TV Cubana Network had aired an extensive three-part series on the Cuban involvement in Angola. The program, produced by the Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces, provided considerable video footage of Cuban military units in action.

3. In the war of words, Havana's Radio Rebelde was quick to pick up on the U.S. Senate's decision to approve \$7.5 million for trial broadcasts to Cuba by TV Marti. We, of course, are anxious that the Marti people not do anything to interfere with our operation. The plan calls for TV Marti to broadcast from a balloon tethered not too many miles up the road from Key West.

4. The Cuban Foreign Ministry tweaked the nose of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana this month by cancelling the visas of a number of visitors, including Representative Don Mica, who has been involved in an ongoing investigation into security problems at the Interests Section. The Foreign Ministry note, which was aired over the Tele-Rebelde Network, accused the Americans of meddling in Cuba's internal affairs by inviting a group of human rights activists to a U.S. diplomatic reception.

5. In the espionage world, Havana TV this month aired the first two of 11 1-hour specials on how the Cuban security services uncovered a spy network on the island in the late sixties. The program was produced jointly by the Institute of Radio and Television and the Ministry of the Interior.

6. Signing the Cuban VIP visitor's log this month was Soviet Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, direct from his visit to the U.S., and Cambodia's Heng Samrin. The Miami Herald speculated that Fidel invited the Cambodian not only to pay homage to him but also to demonstrate that Cuba does not abandon fraternal comrades in the liberation struggle.

7. On the lighter side, Fidel this month paid more than lip service to increasing the production of toothpaste, saying over the Rebelde Radio Network that it was incredible that the country's supply is below domestic demand. Fidel spoke at a meeting of Havana enterprises studying shortages of consumer products. Earlier, the government had resumed toothpaste rationing, with each family allowed only one tube for three people for three months.

8. Elsewhere, Haiti's reimposed leader Henri Namphy offered the new regime's apologia on 8 July for deposing former President Manigat. Our contractor, [] stayed late into the evening to finish his speech, in which he discarded the constitution, saying it included "elements foreign to Haitian tradition" and had been "unhappily written and ratified in a climate of passion and emotion."

STAT

B. Technical

1. Radio Broadcast Monitor [] thought Christmas had come in summer when he heard the sample radio and TV recordings made by the bureau chief during his TDY to Santo Domingo. These recordings indicated exceptionally clean broadcasting on medium-wave, a great contrast to all the hash and spurious emissions that we hear throughout the local broadcast band in Port-au-Prince. Back at the bureau, our ability to monitor Santo Domingo radio programs continued to deteriorate in July to the point that we were only able to eke out a paltry 970 words.

STAT

2. Johnny also kept busy this month checking Cuba's Radio Taino broadcast pattern, since we saw a barrage of media articles implying that this station had stayed on the air late into the night on several occasions to deliberately interfere with American transmitters. This was interpreted as a kind of retaliation against the proposed TV Marti. We could find no connection, since the Taino late night broadcasts, which indeed could be heard in parts of Florida, also were timed for a busy tourist season and to coincide with major music festivals and national holidays.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. HQs introduced a new hiring category, "Unclassified FBIS," to help us bring people aboard earlier than what has been possible in the past. Under this new scheme, we could conceivably cut months off the processing time for candidates who do not require full clearances.

2. We were happy to celebrate on 21 July with [] our senior monitor/editor, when we received word she had been promoted to GS-12.

STAT

3. Bureau personnel were saddened to hear this month of the death of former Monitor/Editor [] who died recently of a stroke.

STAT

4. Our monitorial search continued this month when we brought one promising candidate to Key West for an interview and further testing. Unfortunately, this individual did not prove as good as we had hoped based on her earlier tests. At month's end, we were on the phone again to our number two applicant who at last count was still interested in the position.

B. Building and Grounds

Some tidy up work around the bureau has given us a more polished look as we enter the dog days of summer. A fresh paint job to the fuel tank, air conditioner, and metal strip around the roof resulted in a much neater exterior appearance. Some new plants in front of the entrance also enhanced our image.

IV. VISITS

A. To the bureau

1. Capt Robert Scobie, new Key West Coast Guard Commandant, 6 July.

2. DRD Deputy Chief [], 5-8 July.

STAT

3. [], CT program, 25-29 July.

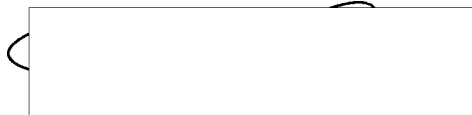
STAT

B. From the bureau

Bureau Chief to Santo Domingo, 20-22 July (for an account of the modern joys of travel, see attached Miami Herald story).

V. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The bureau chief briefed a breakfast group of military officers and leading Key West businessmen on 14 July at the BOQ on Trumbo Point. Capt Denning, the Naval Air Station C/O, had earlier requested that we participate in his efforts to keep the business community informed on what is going on at the military base. No tough questions were asked and the breakfast was edible.



Chief, FBIS Key West

STAT

Attachments: Miami Herald Article
Nonexpendable Property Report

SANTO DOMINGO

26 July 1981

Long flight delay causes chaos

A long delay of an Eastern Airlines flight from Santo Domingo to Miami led to a near riot Sunday when Dominican police had to be called after a group of the 230 passengers stormed Eastern's counter.

No arrests were made.

"A nightmare. It felt like we were hijacked," said Julio Gonzalez Rebull, a Miami publicist who said passengers fainted during the wait.

There was no air conditioning, no food, no water and only one functioning bathroom in the airport and no hotels anywhere in Santo Domingo because of a *merengue* dance festival.

Flight 906 was supposed to depart at 3:48 p.m. Sunday. Unnamed "mechanical problems" caused a delay before the jet ever left Miami for Santo Domingo, said Eastern.

When the wide-body L-1011 arrived in Santo Domingo at 1:55 a.m., the flight crew walked off, forcing a longer delay, said Eastern spokeswoman Karen Ceremsak.

"The crew was past its legal flying time," Ceremsak said.

Eastern tried to find hotel rooms for the waiting passengers but "there weren't any rooms in the inn" because of the festival, she said.

Rebull said male passengers stormed the Eastern counter and were "screaming and yelling" because Eastern "kept lying to us." Every hour the airline's employees promised a jet was on the way, while he kept calling Miami to learn that no flight had left.

"A big lie was going on," he said.

The flight finally departed at 4:25 a.m. and landed in Miami Monday at 6:10 a.m.

Nonexpendable Property

Property Received: None

Property Transferred: Two Collins receivers--Model 651S-1/1A,
Serial Numbers: 2308 and 2468--to U.S.
Embassy Port-au-Prince

Property Disposed: None